

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	MAIL STOP AF
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Luigi Satragno et al.)	Group Art Unit: 3737
)	
Application No.: 10/716,402)	Examiner: Joel Lamprecht
)	
Filing Date: November 20, 2003)	Confirmation No.: 5541
)	
Title: COMBINATION MAGNETIC)	
RESONANCE IMAGING APPARATUS)	
AND PATIENT TABLE)	
)	

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants request review of the final rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-28, 30 and 32-37 in the above-identified application. For at least the following reasons, withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is respectfully requested. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

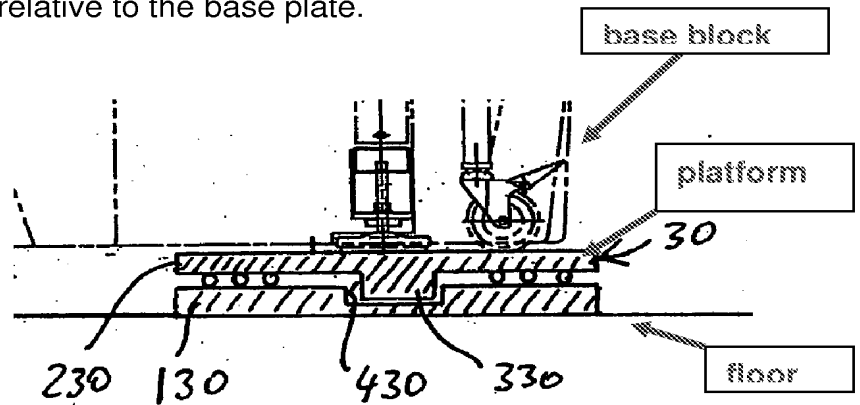
Claims 1, 6-19, 21-24, 27 and 34-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Carrozzi et al. (EP 1 004 269) in view of DeMeester et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,029,081). Claims 2-4, 20, 25-26, 28, 30, 32 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Carrozzi et al. in view of DeMeester et al. as applied above, and in further view of Tazaki (JP 11028199).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that the base block of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus is disposed on a platform interposed between the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and a floor. Claim 1 further recites that the platform has a base plate and an upper magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting plate, and that rotary and sliding guide means are provided such that the platform is

rotatable along an annular path coaxial to an axis of the guide forming the curved connection between the patient table and the magnetic imaging apparatus, and that the upper support plate is slidable relative to the base plate.

Referring to annotated FIG. 6 of the present application, this structure is clearly shown.

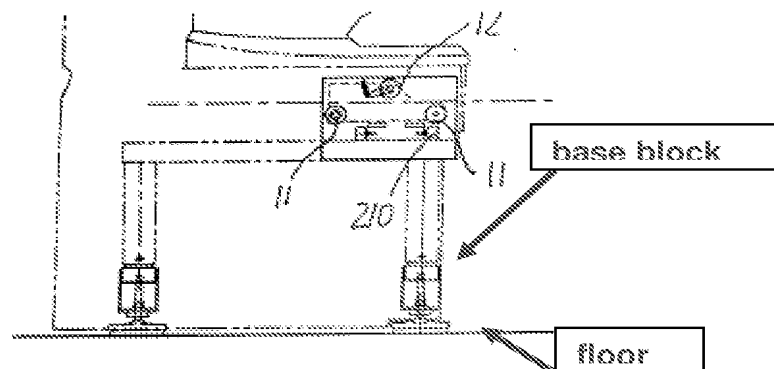
The base block of the MRI apparatus is on a platform 30 interposed between the MRI



apparatus the floor. The platform 30 comprises base plate 130, upper support plate 230, and guide means 330, 430 disposed between plates 130 and 230. Hence, since the base block of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus is disposed on the platform, it is clear that the magnetic imaging apparatus is also displaced when the platform rotates.

Applicants respectfully submit that this arrangement is not found in the cited prior art.

As clearly shown in Figure 4 of Carrozzi, the primary reference upon which the Examiner relies, the base block of the magnetic resonance imaging is disposed directly on a floor. There is no platform interposed between the two as in the claimed invention.



Hence, this feature is not disclosed or suggested in Carrozzi, or any of the other cited references.

As recognized by the Examiner, Carrozzi does not disclose any means for rotating the MRI apparatus itself (i.e., as shown above in Fig. 4, the support legs and hence the base block are resting directly on the floor). Referring to Page 4, last paragraph of the Final Rejection, the Examiner states that "the secondary reference by DeMeester et al. which discloses the use of a magnetic structure complete with rollers and rotatable magnets". For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the rejections of the claims based on Carrozzi et al. in view of the above interpretation of DeMeester et al.

Claim 1 provides for coaxial axis of rotation of a) the MRI apparatus relative to the ground and of b) the patient table relatively to the MRI system. DeMeester discloses that the magnet 20 is mounted on rollers or wheels 56 which engage a track 58 laid out on the floor. The patient table in DeMeester is not displaced relative to the magnet, which is part of the MRI apparatus. Further, DeMeester does not disclose an MRI apparatus which can be rotated in the sense that the entire magnet is rotated. Instead, only one of the two poles forming the magnet (which is part of the MRI apparatus) can be rotated relative to the other part.

Accordingly, DeMeester et al. does not supply the teaching found to be lacking in Carrozzi et al., and it does not suggest the specific rotation recited in claim 1.

Independent claims 28 and 34 are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the reasons set forth above relative to claim 1. The remaining dependent claims define further distinguishing features associated with the claimed apparatus. These dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent Claims 1, 28 or 34. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in these dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the application is respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 17, 2010

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